APPENDIX V.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION AND INCREASE OF POSTAL FACILITIES IN MYSORE.

As the number of post offices in the State has remained stationary for a long time past and a large number of postal inconveniences require early remedy, the Durbar have urged through the Residency that the post offices of the State should be placed under one authority such as a Deputy Postmaster-General instead of being distributed under the control of three Postal Superintendents. The Residency have since intimated that from the 1st July 1920 the post offices of the State have been divided into two charges with a Superintendent in control of each.

2. It is doubtful if a greater improvement in the administration of the post offices in the State can be looked for by an increase in the number of post offices under the control of each Superintendent. What the Durbar require is that the post offices in the State should be placed under the control of a single authority of sufficiently high status, an officer who has the power of remedying small local grievances when requested by the local authorities instead of having to seek orders on them as at present.

3. The administration of the post offices in the State has suffered in consequence of the requirements of the State as a whole not having been considered by a central authority. The number of post offices in the State is about 412 and this number has remained stationary for several years past. The literate population of the State is nearly 341,000 which gives an average of 827 literates for one office. The number of post offices in the Punjab is, on the other hand, believed to show an average of 345 literates for one office which shows that the number in Mysore is capable of a much larger increase. The literacy and general distribution of population is more or less the same in Mysore as it is in the Madras Presidency. For an area of 142,000 sq. miles, Madras has 3,140 post offices, and if Mysore had a proportionately equal number for its area of about 29,500 sq. miles, it should have had 663 post offices instead of only 412. The Representative Assembly have repeatedly requested an increase in the number of post offices and have suggested an increase of at least 15 per cent.

4. Letters are delivered only once a week in villages. The Assembly have requested that arrangements should be made to have them delivered at least three times a week.

5. It has come to the notice of the Durbar that when a new office is considered necessary and is opened by the Postal Superintendents, this has been done by closing another office in their jurisdiction. For instance, an office in Bukkambudi in the Shimoga Division was opened by closing another office at Thavarekere. When the Superintendent was requested to re-open the office at Thavarekere, he informed that as he had received orders to keep down expenditure during the War, the opening of the Thavarekere office could not be considered until after the close of the War.

6. All these inconveniences are not likely to receive adequate attention until the offices in the State are constituted into a separate Circle and placed under the control of a Deputy Postmaster-General.

SIMLA,
17th September 1920.

A. R. BANERJI.